

094342.0031
Examiner Amina S. Khan
Art Unit 1751

CLAIMS

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will **replace all prior versions**, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing 2 of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A method of cleaning fabrics in an automatic consumer-operated laundering apparatus, comprising:

providing a wash chamber in the automatic consumer-operated laundering apparatus for receiving a fabric load to be cleaned and a wash liquor composition, wherein the wash liquor composition comprises a substantially non-reactive, non-aqueous, non-oleophilic, apolar working fluid and at least one washing adjuvant, and wherein the wash chamber is capable of being rotated in one direction for a period of time and in the opposite direction for a period of time to complete an ~~agitation~~ oscillation cycle;

introducing the fabric load and the wash liquor composition into the wash chamber;

initiating a plurality of ~~agitation cycles~~ oscillations of the wash chamber to clean the fabric load;

removing a majority of the wash liquor composition from the fabric load following completion of the plurality of agitation cycles; and

providing a stream of air through the wash chamber to substantially remove any remaining amount of the wash liquor composition in contact with the fabric load.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said non-reactive, nonaqueous, non-oleophilic, apolar working fluid comprises a fluid having a KB value less than approximately 30; a surface tension less than approximately 35 dynes/cm²; and a solubility in water less than 10%.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the at least one washing adjuvant is selected from the group consisting of: builders, surfactants, enzymes, bleach activators, bleach catalysts, bleach boosters, bleaches, alkalinity sources, antibacterial agents, colorants, perfumes, pro-perfumes, finishing aids, lime soap dispersants, composition malodor control agents, odor

094342.0031
Examiner Amina S. Khan
Art Unit 1751

neutralizers, polymeric dye transfer inhibiting agents, crystal growth inhibitors, photobleaches, heavy metal ion sequestrants, anti-tarnishing agents, antimicrobial agents, anti-oxidants, linkers, anti-redeposition agents, electrolytes, pH modifiers, thickeners, abrasives, divalent or trivalent ions, metal ion salts, enzyme stabilizers, corrosion inhibitors, diamines or polyamines or alkoxyates, suds stabilizing polymers, solvents, process aids, fabric softening agents, optical brighteners, hydrotropes, water, suds or foam suppressors, suds or foam boosters, fabric softeners, antistatic agents, dye fixatives, dye abrasion inhibitors, anti-crocking agents, wrinkle reduction agents, wrinkle resistance agents, soil release polymers, soil repellency agents, sunscreen agents, anti-fade agents and mixtures thereof.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the at least one washing adjuvant further comprises a surfactant having a hydrophilic-lipophilic balance from approximately 3 to 14.
5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising a step of reversing the direction of rotation of the wash chamber in a manner which will change the surface of the fabric exposed to the air stream.
6. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the air stream passing through the wash chamber is induced by a blower on the downstream side of the washing chamber and which is constructed and arranged to decrease the absolute pressure in the chamber, and whereby the ratio of the vapor pressure to the total pressure is increased.
7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising a step of passing said wash liquor composition through a membrane filter.
8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7 including the step of cooling the wash liquor composition to a degree which solidifies any water present to facilitate its removal by the membrane filter.

094342.0031
Examiner Amina S. Khan
Art Unit 1751

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7 further comprising a step wherein the wash liquor composition is cooled prior to passing through the membrane filter.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7, further comprising a step of passing said working fluid through a permeate filter.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, further comprising a step of cooling the wash liquor composition prior to passing through to a degree which solidifies any water present to facilitate its removal by the permeate filter.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, further comprising a step of providing a final cycle after the step wherein the working fluid is cooled prior to passing to the permeate filter.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the air stream heats the wash liquor composition to a temperature that does not exceed a maximum temperature ~~within~~ about 30°F below the flash point of the working fluid.

14-23. (Canceled)

24. (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising a step of oscillating the wash chamber in a manner which will change the surface of the fabric exposed to the air stream, while providing a stream of air through the wash chamber.

25. (New) The method of claim 7, further comprising a step of cooling the wash liquor composition to reduce the solubility of water in the wash liquor.

26. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein the wash liquor composition is cooled before filtering.

094342.0031
Examiner Amina S. Khan
Art Unit 1751

27. (New) The method of claim 13, wherein the wash liquor comprises working fluids that have a flash point that range from about 140°F to about 200°F.

28. (New) The method of claim 10, further comprising a step of cooling the wash liquor composition to reduce the solubility of water in the wash liquor prior to passing through the permeate filter.

29. (New) A method of cleaning fabrics in an automatic consumer-operated laundering apparatus, comprising:

providing a wash chamber in the automatic consumer-operated laundering apparatus for receiving a fabric load to be cleaned and a wash liquor composition, wherein the wash liquor composition comprises a substantially non-reactive, non-aqueous, non-oleophilic, apolar working fluid and at least one washing adjuvant, and wherein the wash chamber is capable of being rotated in one direction for a period of time, and in the opposite direction for a period of time to complete an oscillation cycle;

introducing the fabric load and the wash liquor composition into the wash chamber:

initiating a plurality of oscillations which are random, in at least one of speed and duration of each oscillation, to clean the fabric load;

removing a majority of the wash liquor composition from the fabric load following completion of the plurality of agitation cycles; and

providing a stream of air through the wash chamber to substantially remove any remaining amount of the wash liquor composition in contact with the fabric load.

30. (New) A method of cleaning fabrics in an automatic consumer-operated laundering apparatus, comprising:

providing a wash chamber in the automatic consumer-operated laundering apparatus for receiving a fabric load to be cleaned and a wash liquor composition, wherein the wash liquor composition comprises a substantially non-reactive, non-aqueous, non-oleophilic, apolar working fluid and at least one washing adjuvant, and wherein the wash chamber is capable of being rotated in one direction for a period of time, and in the opposite direction for a period of

094342.0031
Examiner Amina S. Khan
Art Unit 1751

time to complete an oscillation cycle;

introducing the fabric load and the wash liquor composition into the wash chamber;

initiating a plurality of oscillations to clean the fabric load;

removing a majority of the wash liquor composition from the fabric load following completion of the plurality of oscillation cycles;

initiating a plurality of oscillations which are random, in at least one of speed and duration of each oscillation, to dry the fabric load; and

providing a stream of air through the wash chamber to substantially remove any remaining amount of the wash liquor composition in contact with the fabric load.